



ourfamilyservices

Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | Fall 2018

A Lifetime of Service and a Legacy Gift

Warm stories and laughter rang through the halls of Our Family Services as four sisters came together to reminisce and celebrate the spirit of their parents. Their mother, Colleen Dickinson, was a formative leader in the growth and development of Southern Arizona's Information and Referral Services, while their father, Donald Dickinson, was invited to establish the University of Arizona's library science program in 1969 as its first director. During the sisters' visit they shared not only a significant estate gift, but also photographs and memories. "Mom and Dad were always devoted to helping others" agreed daughters, Ann, Jean, Katie, and Ellen.

The family's history is imbued with a love of research and reading, as evidenced by the fact that three of the six daughters became librarians! Donald also authored several books, including works on poet Langston Hughes, railroad magnate Henry Huntington and book collector John Carter. Colleen's love shined through her volunteer-turned staff role at 2-1-1 Information and Referral Services, a program of Our Family that has been helping people in need since 1965. Colleen worked at Information & Referral for twenty years before retiring and devoting herself full-time to painting. She exhibited in Tucson at the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild shows.

With Colleen as a driving force, Information and Referral grew



from information handwritten on recipe cards into a professionally printed directory and call center, and later into a largely web- and app- based system known as 2-1-1 Arizona. Last year alone, 100,000 people in Southern Arizona used 2-1-1 for much needed crisis assistance. Colleen's husband Donald was so moved by his wife's commitment that he included Our Family Services and Information and Referral in his will, making a difference this year and beyond.

Thank you Dickinson Family, for your legacy and your gift!

Have you considered including Our Family in your Estate Plan?

There are many ways to make a legacy gift, including:

- Remembering us in your will
- Gifting appreciated securities or your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD – For those over 70 ½)
- Directing a Life Insurance Policy to Our Family

These gifts ensure Our Family Services is able to continue making Tucson a better place to live, to grow up, and grow older - far into the future. Our Federal Tax ID # is: 94-2598560.

Beth's Corner



Let's Talk Facilities!

In the course of Our Family becoming who we are today—with 5 mergers over 6 decades—our properties have been scattered throughout Tucson. Earlier this year, we sold our Grant & Alvernon apartment complex as federal funding no

longer allows us to use it for homeless families. We are pleased that the complex's new owner will continue to operate it as affordable housing.

But don't panic—the programming for homeless families and youth continues, using a model where clients can live in private apartments in the neighborhoods of their choice. In fact, since switching to this new model (known as “scattered site”) we have more than doubled our success rate!

What's up next? As part of our Strategic Plan, we are selling our second office building to consolidate staff at headquarters, increasing efficiency and effectiveness for our clients. Stay tuned for ways to leave your mark on this new endeavor.

Lastly, thanks to the foresight of our board, we jumped at the chance to lease solar panels at Reunion House teen homeless shelter. We now have an anonymous donor who is helping us raise funds from the community to purchase these panels via a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$50,000. This would save \$12,000 every single year in utility costs. Please contact Emily to contribute or for more information: (520) 323-1708 x 425 or ebrott@ourfamilyservices.org.



Reunion House solar panel installation.

- Beth Morrison, CEO

QuikTrip Hosts Barbecue for Homeless Teens



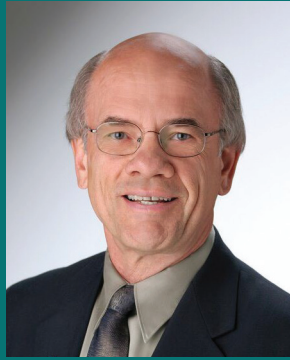
The burgers were sizzling and the competition was fun and fierce during the backyard barbecue QuikTrip employees hosted at the Reunion House shelter for teens. After setting out a delicious spread of food and ice cold drinks, our QT friends grilled the burgers on the back patio and played giant outdoor Jenga with the teens as a monsoon storm rolled in. Thank you QuikTrip for such a festive and memorable afternoon for our youth!

Speaker's Bureau

Are you a former client? We'd love to hear from you! Your input can help us by providing a voice and highlighting the challenges faced by folks experiencing homelessness. Sharing your story, however you feel comfortable, can inform how we advocate for change and educate our stakeholders. Please contact Sarah McNamara at (520) 323-1708 x 416 or smcnamara@ourfamilyservices.org if you'd like to help.

In Memory of Ben Rensvold

Our Family is grateful for Ben's 20 years of volunteer service on our Board of Directors. Ben died tragically in a bicycle accident in August. We extend our deepest condolences to the Rensvold family. Thank you to all who donated to the Reunion House Solar Campaign in Ben's memory. A special panel for Ben will be added to the Reunion House donor wall - please contact Emily at (520) 323-1708 x 425 or ebrott@ourfamilyservices.org if you would like to contribute in his memory.



THANK YOU!

A special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family from May through August 2018.

Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation	Nordstrom Charitable Giving
AMCF Big Hearts Tucson	Preceptor Alpha Epsilon
Bank of America Charitable Foundation	Sabino Smiles
Casas Adobes Congregational Church	St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona	Tortolita Presbyterian Church
Connie Hillman Family Foundation	Tucson Realtors Charitable Foundation
Cream Design and Print	QuikTrip Corporation
David C. and Lura M. Lovell Foundation	UMOM New Day Centers
Davis-Monthan AFB	United Way of Graham County
Fred and Christine Armstrong Foundation	University of Arizona College of Medicine
JAMS Foundation	Walmart Store #2922
John F. Long Foundation	Wells Fargo Bank
Kroger	William L. and Ruth T. Pendleton Memorial Fund
LGBTQ&S Alliance Fund	Wines For Humanity
NewSun Energy	Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona
National Processing Solutions	



Give the gift of empowerment this holiday season!

Our Family Services helps folks through some of the most difficult times in their lives. One of the best gifts you can give this holiday season is to empower someone to choose precisely the gift that will make their child's heart sing, or enable them to make their traditional dishes and favorite family meals. Gift cards are tremendously meaningful for our clients. Your donation of a gift card to grocery stores or Target/Walmart can truly spread joy this holiday season.

You may bring gift cards to our Alvernon office or contact Janiene Samarripas at (520) 323-1708 x 105 or jsamarripas@ourfamilyservices.org.



We are grateful to Sabino Smiles Dentistry for donating backpacks and school supplies for our homeless youth.

Our Family's Senior Leadership

Beth Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
Emily Brott, Chief Development Officer
Joan Hubele, Chief Financial Officer
Laurie Mazerbo, Chief Program Officer

Our Family's Board of Directors

Michael Beals, Andrea Carmichael, Rachel Chanes, Joseph Chimienti, Whitney Clark, Peter DeLuca, Julian Easter, Geneva Escobedo, Jessica Hayes, Hazel Heinzer, Stella Rivera-Varela, JC Rivers, Ann Ventola, Jason Zeider

Change service requested

SAVE THE DATE!
3/14/19
Our Family Services'
Annual Spring Luncheon



Our Family Services publishes this newsletter three times a year. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know.

Homeless Prevention Stabilizes Families

Having a beautiful home has always been a point of pride for Rocio. She keeps her kitchen sparkling clean and is constantly dreaming up new ways to arrange her furniture to make her home comfortable and inviting. Working to provide for her three children, her teenage sister, and her mother means that Rocio has precious little time to dedicate to these efforts but she manages to pull it off.

Rocio came in contact with Our Family Services after an injury and a late paycheck pulled her into a maelstrom of bills and late fees, putting her at risk of losing the thing that was most precious- a place for her family to call home. The Siemer Family Stability program paid one month's worth of gas and electric bills, which allowed Rocio to pay her rent on its due date for the first time in months, enabling her



to catch up instead of fall further behind and saving her hundreds of dollars in late fees.

Beyond helping prevent eviction, the program also provided the invaluable support of connecting the children with school supplies and transportation services so they can continue thriving socially and academically. Additionally, after

some guidance from our staff, Rocio feels more empowered to advocate for herself at work so that she is paid correctly and on time to avoid future housing crises. Rocio has said, "this program helped me catch up on my bills and find peace of mind", allowing her to save up and work toward her long-term goal of homeownership.